

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 TRSE-00 /069 W

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R 031348Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5097

INFO CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD

SHAPE FOR POLAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: OVERSEAS BASES COMMENTARY IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

REF: A. STATE 264046 (NOTAL), B. MOSCOW 18081

1. WE NOTE (REF A) THAT WASHINGTON STAR AND NYT HAVE  
PICKED UP THE DECEMBER 2 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ARTICLE BY  
LEONT'IEV, EXCERPTS OF WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED BY ENGLISH  
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TASS, AND WHICH WE COMENTED ON IN REF B. BOTH ABOVE

PAPERS INTERPRET LEONT'IEV'S STINGING CRITICISM OF U.S. OVERSEAS BASES AS AN OBLIQUE REBUFF BY THE MILITARY OF BREZHNEV FOR HAVING DROPPED U.S. FBS FROM THE SALT-2 AGENDA IN THE JOINT STATEMENT OF VLADIVOSTOK. WE HAVE HEARD SIMILAR VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MOSCOW-BASED CORRESPONDENTS.

2. WE DISAGREE THAT THIS ARTICLE IS SO INTENDED. FIRST, PERHAPS THE MOST CONSTANT FEATURE OF KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICY IS THE ISSUE OF OVERSEAS BASES. DIEGO GARCIA, SIMONSTOWN, AND OTHER BASES WHICH THE U.S. HAS AN INTEREST IN OR IS ALLEGED TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN ARE REGULARLY SUBJECTS OF STRONG CRITICISM. THIS ARTICLE INTRODUCED NOTHING NEW IN THIS RESPECT.

3. SECOND, THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE IS NOT AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE ISSUE OF OVERSEAS BASES, BUT RATHER AT THE WEST'S ATTEMPTS TO FORCE ITS WILL ON THE OIL-PRODUCING STATES OF THE MIDDLE EAST (THE ARTICLE IS ENTITLED "OIL SMELLS OF BLOOD"), AND ITS SECONDARY DISCUSSION OF BASES CENTERS ON THEIR USE BY THE WEST TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. IN REFTEL WE COMMENTED THAT THE ARTICLE WAS UNUSUALLY STRONG IN ITS CRITICISM OF U.S., BUT IN SAYING THIS WE WERE REFERRING TO ITS DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ARMED INTERVENTION BY THE WEST IN THE ARAB WORLD, NOT TO THE ARTICLE'S COMMENTARY ON THE BASES ISSUE.

4. FINALLY, WE FIND IT UNLIKELY THAT TASS WOULD PUT ITS ENGLISH LANGUAGE WIRES AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE MILITARY TO PROPAGATE WHATEVER SPECIAL VIEWS IT MIGHT HAVE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ENGLISH TASS REGULARLY REPLAYS SOVIET MEDIA CRITICISM OF U.S. OVERSEAS BASES, NOT AS A SPECIAL SERVICE TO THE MILITARY, BUT BECAUSE IT FINDS SUCH PROPAGANDA USEFUL IN PUSHING ITS WON PROGRAMS IN THE THIRD WORLD.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PARM, UR, US  
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